

guests please, first of Senator Chronister. In the north balcony we have 20 fourth grade students from Stanton Elementary School in Stanton, Nebraska, and their sponsor. Would you please stand and be recognized. Thank you. We also have some guests of Senator Don Eret. 27 Senior Government students from Deshler High and their instructor. They are also in the north balcony. Would you please stand and be recognized. Thank you, students, for visiting the Legislature. We'll move on to LB 171.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 171 was offered by Senators Labedz and Beutler. (Title read.) The bill was first read on January 14. It was referred to Judiciary Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. The bill was considered on February 22, Mr. President. At that time it failed to advance. It was again considered on March 27. I have no amendments pending at this time.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I don't want to go into great detail on this particular bill again because it has been before you a couple of times, both in situations where it did not have an opportunity for a full discussion. But nonetheless, I think you're aware that this is the bill that would add a juvenile court judge in Omaha and this is the bill that has become critical because of recent events. There are two juvenile court judges in Omaha and one associate judge and you will recall that the associate judge has essentially had for the last four or five years a full third of the work load so he has been effectively a juvenile court judge. Now that particular person, Pat Mullen, who was the associate judge has been appointed by the Governor as district judge in Omaha and so that there is no longer an associate judge in Omaha. Now the other thing you have to remember is that the law that allows for the appointment of an associate judge we repealed last year. So the juvenile court judges, the two juvenile court judges in Omaha no longer have the power to appoint somebody to fill Pat's position, Pat Mullen's position. So unless we pass this bill they will effectively have two judges instead of three to do the work that they...to handle the 5,000 cases that they've had annually. So we need to pass this bill in order to have the authority for the Governor to go through the nominating process to appoint, essentially replace Pat Mullen on the juvenile court bench